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UCAIWA NEWS

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JULY 1939



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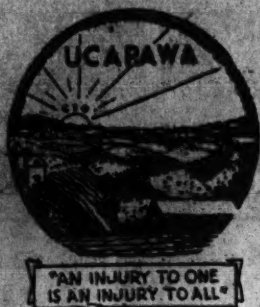
RAMON CHAVARRIA

L. G. VASQUEZ

Leaders of Pecan Workers Local 172

PECAN SHELLERS WIN ANOTHER VICTORY WITH ELECTION OF MAVERICK

*Official Publication of
The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and
Allied Workers of America, CIO.*



UCAPAWA NEWS

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WHO'S WHO IN OUR UNION

O. H. WHITFIELD

"The foxes have holes and the birds of
the air have nests, but the son of man
has not where to lay his head."

Thus spoke O. H. Whitfield, leader of
the great roadside demonstration of
sharecroppers in southeastern Missouri
last January.

Brother Whitfield was vice president
of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.
He was elected a member of the National
Executive Board of the United Can-
nery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied
Workers of America at the second na-
tional convention of UCAPAWA, held
last December in San Francisco.

Repudiates Butler and Mitchell

When suspended officers of District 4,
Butler and Mitchell refused to abide by
the Constitution of UCAPAWA, Brother
Whitfield took the lead in calling a State
convention of all District 4 locals in Mis-
souri.

"We need a state organization, directly
affiliated with UCAPAWA and the four
million members of the CIO," he said.

"We must stand up for the Inter-
national. The state convention calls you.
'We must fight if we would reign; in-
crease our courage, Lord,' are you with
me or against me?"

Twenty-one locals were represented at
the Missouri convention and voted with
Brother Whitfield to repudiate Butler
and Mitchell.

Brother Whitfield used to be a
preacher. He grew restless with just
words and decided that action must go
with them.

Since that time Brother Whitfield has
been in constant action for the good of
his people who are the tenants, share-
croppers and agricultural workers in the
cotton fields.

Practices What He Preaches

This very minute Brother Whitfield is
leading the sharecroppers whom land-
lords evicted last fall to 90 acres of land
that he himself has made it possible to
get for them.

The International is more than proud
to have on its executive board a man
who so perfectly practices what he
preaches

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCESSING

Philadelphia Local 186 Has Won Eight Victories Since New Year

Local 186 of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America is a prize outfit in UCPAWA's fruit and vegetable canning industry. Six strikes have been won and three are going strong at the time of this writing. The local has renewed 11 contracts. It looks as though the six other agreements to be signed will be a cinch for the members of 186.

Important among these victories were strikes won at Weinfeld & Son Pickle House, the favorable settlement of a lockout at the American Preserve Co., the renewal of agreements with Imperial Products and the Pennsylvania Preserve Co.

Weinfeld Forks Over

After a two-week strike, Weinfeld & Son had to increase their payroll \$1,500 for the year. This is to be divided among 12 of the 16 employees.

Minimum wages for women workers based on a 40-hour week were raised from \$10 to \$13. Minimums for men based on a 44-hour week were raised from \$13.50 to \$16.

Lock-Out Boomerangs

A two week shutdown of the American Preserve Co. by 150 members of Local 186 resulted in complete victory. Stoppage began when the company refused to discharge an anti-union worker who had been expelled by the local for ratting to the boss.

American Preserve locked its doors and refused the union's demand that Stanley Funston, the expelled worker, be discharged.

Finally, the company was forced to agree to the unconditional discharge of Funston. American Preserve signed a memorandum interpreting the present contract to mean that the union has the right to discipline members without company interference.

The union committee that settled this dispute consisted of Walter Sammler, vice president of the local; Bill Robbins, Ray Brown, Attorney Adolph Heller and Lelf Dahl, president of District 7.

4 More Firms Sign

Samuel Shacter, business agent of Local 186, reported the renewal of four more contracts with Philadelphia firms late in May. Pennsylvania Preserve Co. renewed its agreement with the union. A minimum wage of \$22.60 for a 40-hour week was established. In addition, other benefits were gained, such as eleven

holidays with pay and full pay for all sick leave up to six months.

Imperial Products renewed its closed shop agreement with wage hikes ranging from 50c to \$2.50 per week. Contracts have also been signed with Bronson Foods Co., providing for wage increases and other benefits, and with Standard Sales Product Co., where wages were increased \$3 a week.

At this writing, Local 186 is still conducting one strike. They have just won a victory at the Clare Food Relish Co. Members of 186 have worked hard to build the union and stand out as an

example to the whole fruit-canning industry.

CALIFORNIA WINS FRUIT, VEGETABLE CANNING PACT

Local 11 of UCPAWA signed a contract in the California fruit and vegetable canning industry at Mountain View on March 31 with the California Supply Co.

In its agreement with Local 11, UCPAWA, the company recognizes the union and grants a closed shop. The agreement provides for an eight-hour day and a 44-hour week. Any employee working overtime will receive time and a half.

Employees called upon for work any day but not actually put to work shall receive two hours' pay. Workers must be paid for waiting time. Meal periods of 60 minutes are provided for in the agreement. The contract guarantees no reduction in wages.

Workers Strike for Decent Wages



WORKERS AT THE Clare Food & Relish Co., members of Local 186 in Philadelphia came out on strike against wages as low as \$10.50 for women working a 40-hour week. The union turned down a 5% compromise wage boost. Catching a bite to eat on the picket line are: (top row, left to right) Marie Logan, Florence Wnek, Stella Kosmac, Nellie McNamee, Victoria Gessler and Rose Suchocki. (Bottom row) Joe Snow, Matthew Wnek and Anna Stankus.



FISH CANNING and SEAFOOD

UCAPAWA WINS HALF MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE FOR 7000 WORKERS

By Ignacio I. Josue, Secretary Negotiation's Committee, Local 7 UCAPAWA, CIO

SEATTLE.—On May 22 an agreement was signed here between Alaska packers representing 90% of the industry and three locals of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America. Wage raises gained by 7000 union members range from 7% to 12%. Recognition of the union hiring hall was written into the contract for the first time.

From \$27.50 to \$100

Once upon a time so-called Oriental labor used to walk up the gang planks of Alaska-bound steamers shanghaied by labor contractors to work in the salmon industry for a wage of \$27.50 a month.

These conditions existed during the good old days of the Hooverian years 1932 and 1933.

This year, 1939, the same labor, no longer labelled "a docile Oriental labor" is walking up the same gang planks. Today the story is different. They walk with heads erect. They have every reason to feel proud.

Advances Made

The contract just signed with Alaska Packers provides for minimums of \$100, \$85 and \$80 per month, depending on the geographical area of Alaska in which they work. Board and room is furnished by the company.

Workers from UCAPAWA Locals 7, 226 and 5 together with residents of Alaska have increased their wages half a million dollars over the 1937 scale.

People no longer have to work 11 hours a day to earn necessary overtime. Previous to unionization of the industry overtime rates were 20c an hour. This year, for all time put in after an eight hour period the following overtime hourly rates have been set—65c north, 62½c middle and 60c south Alaska.

Contract Industry Wide

Workers in the canned salmon industry no longer bear the stigma and the prejudice that used to exist against what was called Oriental labor. In the union there is no trace of

racial prejudice in spite of the many nationalities employed.

Canned salmon workers of Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Alaska have forged a mighty chain of unity. For the 1939 season they have won an industry-wide contract covering about 120 plants in Alaska.

Swing Music in Pact

In keeping with the modern temper, the contract provides that each plant will have a phonograph with at least 48 records. Radios are also installed in the canneries. Each morning people at work get the daily radio news release. This is something of

a luxury in a territory where civilization is so remote.

Henderson Attends

Donald Henderson, general president of UCAPAWA made a special trip to Seattle to attend the first conference with canned salmon packers.

The UCAPAWA Committee that negotiated the contract with Alaska Canners had many able leaders. They were: Conrad Espe, Chairman of the Seafood Coordinating Committee of UCAPAWA, Pres. George Woolf of Alaska Cannery Workers Local 5, San Francisco, V. O. Navia and I. Cabitat of Cannery Workers and Farm Laborers Local 7, Seattle, E. Mamgong of Local 226 Portland, Marguerite Hanson of Ketchikan, Alaska, Harold C. Jones of Petersburg, Alaska and E. V. Dennet of the Washington State Industrial Union Council.

Maritime Fed. Wins

Recognition of the union hiring hall was written into the contract for the first time since collective bargaining was entered into with the canned salmon industry.

Official recognition was given to the Maritime Federation of the Pacific under a provision governing observance of picket lines. After this the Maritime Federation will have the right to rule whether a picket line is legitimate or not. Alaska fishing tenders were picketed this year by a dual fake union whose secretary was Harry Lundburg.

VAN CAMP'S FISH CANNERY SIGNS CONTRACT WITH LOCAL 64 UCAPAWA

The United Fish Cannery Workers of San Diego, Local 64 signed an agreement March 1, 1939, with the Van Camp Sea Food Incorporated.

Local 64 is recognized as the sole collective bargaining agency. The company grants a preferential shop and seniority rights.

Hours of Work

"Eight consecutive hours shall constitute a working day." Work done after straight eight hours will be paid for at the rate of 5c an hour extra up to twelve hours.

Those working over 12 straight hours will be paid 15c an hour more than the regular scale.

Time and a half is to be paid for all work done on legal holidays and Sundays.

Wages

In an effort to check the union, Van Camps had raised wages in February to a minimum of 60 cents an hour for men and 55 cents an hour for women.

The contract guarantees that the wage scale will be maintained at the present level for the duration of the agreement.

Letters from Our Members

MONTANA UCAPAWA LOCAL MARCHES AGAINST WPA CUTS

BILLINGS, Mont.—The Workers Alliance here put on a march and demonstration against WPA cuts. This local, together with the Industrial Union Local 808 of the CIO, participated.

We fell in behind the Workers Alliance group as the march started, and before we had gone three blocks about 50 more fell in behind us.



UCAPAWA PARADERS

It was a thrill to be in the march and study the reactions of the bystanders on the streets. Some broke from the crowds and joined friends in the march. Others who might be classed as backsliders and stool pigeons hid in doorways or peered from behind other bystanders.

LOCAL FILES

BEET LABOR CLAIMS

We have filed several beet labor claims in behalf of members of our UCAPAWA local. Two cases of special interest came up before the Soil Conservation Board against a farmer we considered a hard nut to crack.

Before the hearing started, one of our Mexicans was ushered out, and I, the writer, was requested to leave. I protested with such persistence that it became evident that force would be necessary to remove me. Finally I was allowed to remain with three friends. The case was postponed until February.

In February all our members were treated with great courtesy and were even brought chairs. The farmer brought his lawyer with him. We have not been given a decision yet, but feel sure our members will receive the compensation due them.

Mrs. M. M. Reynolds, Local 155

Nelson Hall Local 288— Longview, Texas

Brother G. A. Nelson is planning to celebrate the 40th year of his marriage on July 18 by giving a great big barbecue free to the local.

Many of our members who have reached pension age are being turned down because they own small plots of land. All who have about 10 acres of land are turned down.

W. E. Simmons, Press Reporter for
Local 288, Nelson Hall

Buy Union Hams— Local 215, Texas

We have organized a Truck Growers Assn. at Easton, Texas. We are going to raise watermelons, sweet potatoes and vegetables for the market, and would appreciate UCAPAWA's assistance in getting the best market prices for our products.

We wonder how many of our fellow-union members of the International would like to have one of our delicious country cured hams this fall. We really know how to put up real hickory smoked hams and bacon. If we were reasonably sure of a market we could form a co-operative purchasing plant.

Any one interested will please send word to the writer at Longview, Texas, Route 3, Box 70.

Mollie Robinson.

Shafter Local Hits Discrimination

SHAFTER, Calif.—Some time ago the Postmaster here put a sign in one of the general delivery windows. It read, "L to Z and Mexicans."

Our local sent a protest to the Postmaster General, demanding that the sign be taken off the window.

We received a reply from Mr. W. W. Howes, first Assistant Postmaster General. He notified the local that necessary action and an investigation would correct the situation.

On the same day that we received the letter from Mr. Howes, the Shafter Postmaster took the sign off the general delivery window.

Starts Again

But now he has put a notice in the same window. It reads like this: "Spanish patrons call for your mail at this window." The Postmaster keeps the general delivery window where he has put the sign "closed."

When the Spanish-speaking people go to the window that is open, they are asked to call for their mail at the window with the sign. That window is closed.

Our local asks that the International office help correct this situation. We ask that the matter be taken up with the Postmaster General and demand that the Shafter Postmaster discontinue this discrimination against the Spanish-speaking people. The name of the Shafter Postmaster is Mrs. Lois Berry.

Fraternally yours,

M. M. RODRIGUEZ,

Sec.-Treas., Local 250,

UCAPAWA, CIO.

MEMBERSHIP BOOKS

Secretary-Treasurer's Column

By MICHAEL HOWARD

Secretary-Treasurer, UCAPAWA

The carefulness with which the International office is issuing the new membership books is causing some gnashing of teeth and beating of breasts. It is de regrettable indeed that this should be necessary, but I am sure that whatever pain or discomfort is caused can be marked up to the normal growing pains of any healthy, growing organization.

Back in the days when the International was first set up, it was a fairly simple matter to obtain a membership book. All you had to do, in some cases, was to sign an application blank and you'd be given a membership book. This was understandable, at that time. But to continue this procedure now would be criminal.

Procedure

In issuing the new membership books, we are standing pat on the following procedure:

(1) For every new book issued in exchange for an old one, the old one must be turned in and sent to the International office along with the monthly report.

(2) For every new book issued to a new member for the first time, an initiation fee must be collected.

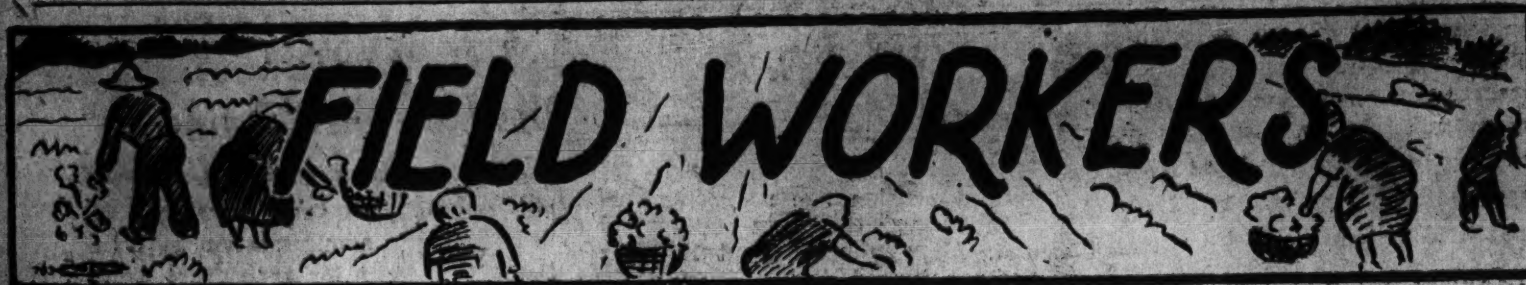
(3) A charge of 5c is being made on all members whose old books are being exchanged for new ones.

In the case of exchanging an old book for a new one, in order to save the expense of putting a new initiation stamp into every new book, we have printed the words "Replacement—Initiation Paid" underneath the box where the initiation stamp is usually placed. These books so marked are to be used only for members who already have an old book.

That is why we have asked all locals to send us at once an accurate estimate of the number of members in good standing in their local who will receive a new book in exchange for an old one. We wanted to know how many "Replacement—Initiation Paid" books to send to each local.

And that's where the gnashing of teeth is heard. I have several letters on my desk from locals who have been averaging per capita payments to the International for about 30 to 60 employed members. A local that has been averaging 30 employed per capita per month for the past year writes: "Please send us 500 membership books at once, because the members want their new books as soon as possible." Another local that has been paying on 50 members informs us that "About 300 books will be enough."

Continued on Page Sixteen



Farm Security Administration Builds Camps for Agricultural Worker

By RALPH FRIEDMAN

By co-operating with the Farm Security Administration and the International Office of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, agricultural locals of UCAPAWA can win better housing and health conditions.

This article, by Ralph Friedman, describes one of the new camps built for traveling farm labor in Tulare County, Calif.

Seven such camps have been built. Our UCAPAWA locals should circulate petitions among their fellow workers for more camps and medical aid. Send these petitions to the International office of UCAPAWA or the FSA in Washington.

From July 1, 1935 to March, 1938, a period of less than three years, 241,930 out-of-state people have been forced to leave ruined farms and go to California in search of wage jobs on big farms and ranches.

These people come from the Oklahoma dust bowl, Texas, Arizona and Arkansas. From Oklahoma alone one fourth of the migratory workers have been driven into California.

In their home States these workers were tenants, small farmers and share croppers. Many of them grew cotton. In California crowds of them go to Kern County where cotton is worked five months of the year.

In addition to these out-of-state workers there are hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers who are Californians. This means that there are not enough jobs to go around for all the traveling families and bosses are in a good position to bargain for the lowest possible wages.

Food and Shelter

Often the whole family works cotton part of the year and then goes to the fruit and vegetable crops of the state for the rest of the year.

The average man makes \$1.50 a day working cotton. During the rainy season, in between crops, there is no work. Wages for fruit and vegetable picking are as low as 20c an hour. The average family following crops for a living earns from \$300 to \$300 a year.

The chief food of migratory workers and their families are biscuits, made by the women folk, with flour, baking powder, lard and water.

Housing for these fellow workers is generally a shack thrown together out of raisin trays or a tattered tent on the

bank of an irrigation ditch. California gives relief to no one who has not been in the State a year. These brothers and sisters who are members and potential members of UCAPAWA are one of the biggest responsibilities of the International.

On the Move

In Spring migratory workers leave the cotton country and beat their way into the State's fruit and vegetable centers.

The Farm Security Administration has built model camps in some parts of the State for those who must follow crops. These have greatly improved the health and welfare of those who have enjoyed their benefits.

UCAPAWA urges that FSA increase the number of these camps and build them in other states where they are also needed. Florida, Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, are only a few of the states where FSA can help with camps.

Over thirty thousand field workers have joined UCAPAWA. Through the International and its co-operation with FSA, they have won increased wages, better hours and medical aid. Field workers of UCAPAWA can win more as they increase their membership and locals all over the country. Through action and organization many more decent camps can be won together with other improvements.

Tulare County Camp

An airplane view of this camp in Farmersville, Calif., shows rows of small steel houses on a five-sided plot of ground. In the center of the plot is the utility building. There, showers, a laundry and other conveniences are provided. Near the entrance of the camp there is a group of small houses

where families with catching diseases can be isolated. Close by is a clinic building where sickness and accidents are taken care of.

Holds 600

There are 50 steel houses already built and lived in. These take care of about 600 people. One hundred and fifty more houses are going up so that it will be possible for 1,200 people to live in the camp.

The Farmersville camp covers about 40 acres. It was built with an eye to comfort. Each family pays 10c a day rent for a cabin. The money goes into a camp fund and is used for camp improvements. Schooling is carried on in the community hall. A schoolhouse, paid for by Tulare County, is under construction and will soon be open for camp children.

Hot Water Supplied

For the first time in their lives some of the women can wash their clothes without heating water. The utility building has five electric washers, 64 cement basins, with hot and cold running water and 16 ironing boards with electric irons furnished.

A central heating plant provides hot water and heat for community buildings. There are 48 showers, half of them for men and half for women.

Medical Aid

A nurse provides medical attention for residents. She also conducts nursing and hygiene classes.

In California all migratory workers can now get free medical care. A corporation has been set up by the state. Headquarters have been established at Fresno. There are district offices in Tulare, Fresno, Stockton and Madera.

These few facilities exist for agricultural workers in California because they are building UCAPAWA. What has been gained is only a drop in the bucket. The job of winning decent conditions for agricultural workers, in California and other states still remains one of the outstanding concerns of UCAPAWA.

Camp Government

The model FSA camp at Farmersville cannot be left without some description of the government in the camp. The camp is run by a Council elected by resident workers.

The Council has power to remove any residents who do not obey rules. Rules are made by the Council, governing speed laws, the use of facilities etc. A financial committee of the Council has control of the rent fund and decides what it shall be used for.

I found the people proud and happy

in their community. It was amazing to see these people—the same folks, who six weeks before, had lived discouraged and weary on ditch banks—so proud and full of the joy of life in their new homes.

CITRUS WORKERS WIN WAGE HIKE

A one day strike of 150 orange shed workers in Porterville, Calif., blocked a wage cut last month and won pay increases.

Randolph's shed granted a half cent increase from the previous 7c a box for large oranges. Sunflower, American Sunland and Magnolia Companies were forced to raise wages for large oranges from 6c to 9c. Winners of pay raises were all members of UCAPAWA.

FARM LABOR PACT WON BY LOCAL 7

The Farm Division of Local 7 UCAPAWA has signed its first agreement this year with the Japanese Growers Assn. of Bainbridge Island in the State of Washington. During the Summer months 200 workers are covered by the contract.

The hourly wage rates for straight time are 27½c. Overtime will be paid at the rate of 35c an hour. The agreement provides that 10 hours shall constitute a day's work.

Straight time will be paid from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. excepting for the hour taken off for lunch.

The agreement went into effect March 1, 1939 and will be binding until the last day of February 1940.

THEY KNOW NOW WHAT THEY DO

U. S. landowners, businessmen and other members of the country's upper-crust can no longer excuse themselves, by claiming lack of knowledge when it comes to the millions of agricultural workers in this country.

John Steinbeck in his nation-wide acclaimed book "Grapes of Wrath" has told America the story of the migratory workers who were forced from their land into California.

All sorts of folks from all classes are reading Steinbeck's book. With this great book making the U. S. think of the long forgotten agricultural workers, magazines and pamphlets are also taking up the problem of "ill-housed, ill-fed, ill-clothed" rural America. The April issue of "Fortune" magazine carried a

Old Style



feature article about the migratory workers.

Though "Fortune" is known as a millionaire magazine some of its readers have a heart. Besides many people read "Fortune" in libraries and waiting rooms even though they can't buy it.

Farm Security has helped publicize the conditions under which our country's food sowers and pickers must work.

People can no longer blind themselves to the problem of the agricultural worker. There is too much good stuff being written about him. It hits all sorts of people between the eyes.

What Does It Mean?

It used to be that families might strike in peach orchards or orange groves with the hope of winning a few cents more a day. The story wasn't told and the strikers rarely won. It used to be that vigilantes, klansmen and punks hired by the bosses could shoot and lynch union leaders without a line getting into the papers about these crimes and no one the wiser.

But even bosses and punks are sensitive about being called rats in the open. They have to watch their P's and Q's now, because America is behind the agricultural workers. The people of this country are beginning to insist that their fellow workers in the fields are also free and equal.

Anyone trying the old rough stuff, now, when farm labor demands its just desserts is liable to get caught and maybe have a nasty scandal on his hands.

Now is the time for agricultural labor to organize, join UCAPAWA and fight for the right to live. Through such books as Steinbeck's, America is learning fast about us agricultural workers. We are no longer the forgotten men. Take advantage of the support you can win from new friends who have learned about you and build UCAPAWA into a mighty weapon that will forge your way to freedom.

F. S. A. Announces Plan for New Camp

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—As we go to press we hear the good news that the Farm Security Administration is planning a new camp for agriculture workers in Farebaugh, Madera County, California.

F. S. A. has announced that bids of general contractors for the building of the new camp were opened here on June 16.

To House 300

The new camp will house nearly 300 migratory families in metal or wooden homes. There will also be an apartment type of labor home on the camp site that will take care of 48 families who do not travel as much as most migratory workers are forced to do.

Building Program

Opening of these bids represent the latest steps in the F. S. A. building program. The aim is to provide sanitary homes for 3,500 migrant families in California.

UCAPAWA members can speed this up and make the program bigger and better if locals will only write their needs into the F. S. A. state, regional and national offices. At the same time they should inform the International in Washington as to what they are doing and let the International know what the needs are.

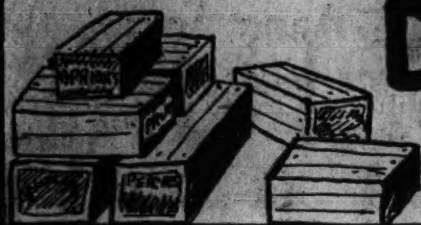
Other States

Camps are being built in Arizona, Texas, Washington, Oregon and Idaho where seasonal labor is on the increase.

Why not get busy and let the F. S. A. know that camps are needed in Florida, New Jersey, Michigan, Ohio and several other states. We can have those camps where they are needed. Field worker locals in the South, the Middle West and the East fight for better housing for your members. Let the FSA and the International know what you are doing.

New Style





DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS



Four Contracts Signed to Cover 2400 Suffolk Peanut Workers

Local 232 of UCAPAWA renewed its contract with Planters' Nut and Chocolate Co. in Suffolk, Virginia on April 22.

Meanwhile Local 110 of UCAPAWA has won agreements with four other Suffolk peanut houses. They are with Lummis & Co., the American Peanut Corp., Pond Brothers Peanut Co., and the Suffolk Peanut Co. The United Peanut Workers Union Local 110 of UCAPAWA still aims to sign up Parkers Peanut Co. When this is done all six of the peanut plants in Suffolk will be under contract.

At present Locals 232 and 110 have won contracts in five Suffolk peanut plants covering approximately 2,400 workers.

LUMMIS CO. FORCED STRIKE

In winning the contract with Lummis & Co., workers were forced to strike last January. Over 1,500 swelled picket lines outside of Lummis'.

City police did their best to scare pickets. They seized several of the women workers and tried to rough them up.

Police also made every attempt to rush scabs through picket lines. For a time Lummis & Co. workers, together with their friends from other peanut houses, had quite a battle on their hands.

A woman scab, brought to the picket line in a taxi, jumped out and tried to break through the line with a cop on either side of her. She stabbed William Austin, of Local 232. She stuck a knife through Maggie Parker's arm and slashed Richard Peace, of Local 232, in the face.

Later the stabber was taken to police headquarters and booked on a felonious cutting charge made by union members.

Cops continued to charge the picket line with scabs dangling between them. Only a dozen scabs got up nerve enough to be taken into the plant in this fashion.

ALL NOISE, NO PEANUTS

Company officials turned on the machinery and opened doors so that pickets would believe the plant was running. Strikers caught on to this old trick and shouted: "All noise but no peanuts!"

Lummis & Co. was finally forced to give up and signed a contract with Local 110 on January 24.

OTHERS FOLLOW SUIT

In March and April the American Peanut Corp and Pond Brothers Peanut Co. signed contracts with the union.

During April, Planters Nut and Chocolate Co., largest peanut plant in the world, renewed its contract with Local 232. The new contract provided for many improvements. Late in May the

Suffolk Peanut Co. signed a contract with Local 110.

The contract signed by Local 232 with Planters' is the most important, as it is the largest of the peanut houses and best represents gains made by peanut workers over a period of a year.

NEW PLANTERS' CONTRACT

The new contract signed with Planters' Nut and Chocolate Co. provided for a straight 40-hour week, with time and a half for overtime, Sundays and holidays. Certain departments stand to gain big increases in overtime pay through this provision, as there will be necessary Sunday and overtime work.

In the contract there is a clear statement warning all foremen and foreladies to desist from anti-union activities. The company fought against including this provision because of the pro-union effect it will have on white workers, who are scared to death of straw bosses.

A general wage increase averaging about 7% was gained by the signing of the new contract.

One of the most important features of the new agreement was the seniority clause. This year's provision calls for a written seniority list that will take discriminatory powers out of the hands of straw bosses. Another gain for the union was a clause providing that shop stewards are to be the last laid off and the first to be rehired in their departments.

WAGES 4 TIMES HIGHER FOR 2000 PECAN WORKERS

The strike led by UCAPAWA a year ago last February, together with the enactment of the Wages and Hours Law, has raised wages of San Antonio pecan shellers to 25c an hour. Little this may seem to our UCAPAWA members in other industries.

However, this new wage amounts to

four times as much as the pecan workers earned before they joined UCAPAWA.

STILL DODGING

Small firms are still trying to dodge the law. UCAPAWA has been picketing these unlawful shops with some success.

The Garcia Firm, the Sunshine Pecan Shelling Co., the Ernesto Moran, Victor Ramirez and the Guerrero plants have been surrounded by union pickets.

RELIEF FOR UNEMPLOYED

One of UCAPAWA's chief problems among San Antonio's pecan shellers remains that of the unemployed. When the Wages and Hours Law went into effect and a closed shop check-off was signed with UCAPAWA, Seligman, the

Picketing Unlawful Shop



Local 172 members picket Sunshine Co.

pecan king retaliated by firing thousands of workers. UCAPAWA is fighting for relief of the unemployed. At the same time, many of those fired were wives and children of employed shellers. Since the wage increase one man can earn more than his whole family could make before the strike.

LARGEST DATE, FIG PACKING PLANT SIGNS CLOSED SHOP

Local 207 of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America won a closed shop in the country's largest date and fig packing plant on May 26, as the result of a vote conducted by the New York Labor Board.

Hills Brothers Co., in New York City, packers of the Dromedary brand of food stuffs agreed to grant a closed shop, should 60% of the year-round workers so vote.

The results of the vote were 270 workers for a closed shop, 10 for a preferential shop and five not voting. The percentage for a closed shop was 95%.

Hills Brothers employs about 800 workers during the peak season.

Mexican, Spanish People of U. S. Hold 1st National Congress

By Harry Lumpkins and Manuel Cazares

The First National Congress of the Mexican and Spanish American people of the United States held in Los Angeles, April 28, 29 and 30, had great meaning and significance for the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America, CIO.

At least one-sixth of UCAPAWA's membership are Mexicans and Spanish Americans. Their problems are the International's problems. It was because of this, that Donald Henderson, general president of UCAPAWA helped in its initiation and organization.

On the evening of April 28, 1939, there came together the delegates for the First National Congress of the Mexican and Spanish American people ever held in the United States.

The New Mexico and Arizona Social Club, in Los Angeles, was host to approximately 1,500 people, who overfilled its assembly hall with official and fraternal delegates from Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and California.

Lieutenant Governor Speaks

After an opening number by the Mexican-American orchestra, the national anthems of both Mexico and the United States were sung.

Senor Quevedo opened the congress with warm words of welcome and introduced the guest speakers. Mr. Kenneth Fulton brought greetings from Gov. Culbert L. Olson of California.

Lieut. Gov. Ellis E. Patterson of California brought the congress a message of congratulation and active support for its aims. Senor Oribe De Alva, representing the Mexican Confederation of Workers in Mexico (C.T.M.), pledged the support of the Mexican trade unions.

Program

Out of this first great congress came an important program. This program stands for unity of the Spanish-speaking people in the United States in defense of their economic, social, cultural and civic interests, without distinction of creeds:

The program also calls for an alliance between Spanish-speaking people and the progressive democratic forces among the Anglo-American and minority groups in the United States.



CEMETERY BOYS ARE NOT DEAD

Irene Bocskowski reporting for some of the UCAPAWA locals in Toledo, Ohio, says that though the Woodlawn Cemetery boys deal in a dead business they are by no means dead themselves.

Their contract comes up for renewal in the near future. Woodlawn boys are expecting a few improvements. In their new contract they aim to get a closed shop and vacations with pay.

all its demands, and the local is out to extend organization—now!

Local 74 has just completed a much-needed reorganization under the District 7, and now reports its per capita tax paid up to date with a small treasury on hand which is expected to grow.

CLOSED SHOP WON IN MT. SINAI

Local 74, UCAPAWA, in Philadelphia reports that it has signed a closed shop agreement with Mt. Sinai as the result of a short strike. Minimum wages run from 70c an hour to 60c an hour for seasonal workers.

LAUREL HILL WINS STRIKE

Local 74 called a strike in the Laurel Hill cemetery, May 24, to resist the following demands made by the management: Straight time for all overtime, open wage negotiations every six months, skeleton crew from December 1 to March 15, contract to expire at end of the season, wage cut.

The position of the management can be summed up in the following words of the management:

"The union has been on trial in Laurel Hill for two years and it didn't work, the wages are too high, unreasonable and unjustified." A militant picket line was maintained by 25 of the 32 workers employed. The management signed a new contract with the union on June 9, giving the union a closed shop for all of its members, and those hereafter to become members, no wage cuts, no skeleton crew, etc.

Local 74 has proved its mettle in this and a previous strike in another cemetery, Mount Sinai, where the union won

ORGANIZATION SPREADS IN GREENHOUSES

Brother Clyde Johnson, Intl. Representative of UCAPAWA in District 3, reports from Denver that negotiations with two Denver greenhouses are progressing rapidly.

Though the horticultural section of UCAPAWA is still small, it has practically doubled since December. The International has about 2,000 greenhouse and cemetery workers signed up with the union with over half of these under contract.

GETS RESULTS



THE STRIKE at the Laurel Hill Cemetery brought quick results with the management soon giving in to the union's demands.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

Maverick Mayoralty Victory

The city of San Antonio has defeated the Quin machine, enemy of the pecan shellers, and has elected Maury Maverick as its Mayor.

Mr. Maverick's victory is due to the thousands of pecan shellers who backed him. It may be called another victory for the pecan shellers, who last year joined UCAFAWA, went on strike, fought gloriously and won.

The election of Maverick as Mayor of San Antonio will have far-reaching results. Besides cleaning up the corrupt politics of San Antonio, Maverick may expect to control the county's Democratic delegation to the 1940 State Convention.

His victory and that of the pecan shellers also puts the cactus in Vice President Garner's pants. He is generally credited with supporting the Quin machine.

Associated Farmers Bar Living Wage

The Associated Farmers are barring living wages to cotton choppers in Madera County, Calif. They refuse to pay the minimum subsistence scale, set by a state commission, which is 27½c an hour. The Associated Farmers set a 20c wage, and now threaten to import labor from outside the State to pack an already glutted agricultural labor market. Cotton choppers, insisting on 27½c, are being threatened with violence.

The State Relief Commission recently ruled that relief clients need not accept anything below 27½c per hour for this work.

Conference Fights Anti-Alien Bills

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A National Emergency Conference was held here May 18 in order to fight floods of anti-alien bills that have been introduced in Congress by the reactionaries.

The conference was of especial importance to UCAFAWA because so many of our members are foreign-born.

In speaking before the conference, John D. Murphy, National Director of the CIO, said:

"These Tory Congressmen and their masters don't like the way America is going. They don't like the New Deal or the WPA or the Wagner Act or the CIO or the AFL, for that matter.

"Their pretended concern about the

aliens masks a very real concern about democracy and the growth of the labor movement in this country.

"The issue is plain, and our duty as Americans and as men and women is clear. We must resist the attack, ostensibly directed at aliens, because it is an attack directed upon us, at our rights and liberties as free people. We must resist it, because our interests are at stake. Workers know this. They know that an attack on liberty anywhere, directed at any groups, is an attack on them."

Monsignor John A. Ryan, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, spoke for a large number of American Catholics at the conference, when he denounced the 60 anti-alien measures as a menace to Civil Liberties.

Farm Hands Taken From Nazi Shops

BERLIN, May 9—All factories and business enterprises of more than 20 workers in the State of Thuringia were ordered today to fire 2% of their employees to provide landowners with enough labor.

Business enterprises not regarded as vital by authorities are requested to surrender even more of their employees. This was done, according to Nazi officials, to increase the food supply of the country.

The real reason for this action is that farm labor, even more than any other group, is underpaid, undernourished and ill-housed under the Nazi regime. No man will be a farm worker in Germany unless forced by the government.

Fair Labor Standards Act Applies To Kids Employed in Canneries

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, Chief of the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, has announced that, with the opening of the 1939 canning season, employers should remember that the minimum age of 16 years, according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, applies to children working in canneries.

In response to many questions concerning the application of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to children in the canning and food processing industry, Miss Lenroot said that canning is regarded as "production"

within the meaning of the child labor provisions of the act.

Miss Lenroot explained that the canning of fruits and vegetables is not agriculture within the meaning of the act. We wish that all concerned could see this as clearly as Miss Lenroot does, and so put a stop to the efforts being made by reactionaries to exempt all canning and food processing workers from the benefits of the act.

Agricultural Unions In Soviet Russia

There are 19 trade unions for agricultural workers in Soviet Russia. These unions cover a membership of 1,445,700 people.

The great number of land workers in the Soviet Union and the different conditions of production made it necessary to organize these workers in several trade unions.

At present the 19 unions organize workers, engineers, employees and the whole staff employed on an agricultural enterprise.

Most of the union members are on Soviet farms. That means state-owned large-scale farms. There are about 5,000 such farms in the Soviet Union.

Farming on the state-owned farms is getting so mechanized that the work is coming to resemble industrial types of labor.

Soil Conservation District Applied for by UCAFAWA Negro Members in South

LONGVIEW, Texas—Negro members of UCAFAWA have shown their strength by applying for a Soil Conservation District in Gregg county, Texas.

They have petitioned the State Conservation Board to order an election for the purpose of forming the Eastern Soil Conservation District.

According to Harry Koger, UCAFAWA organizer in Longview, this is the first Negro group of farmers to petition the board for an election to form a district. The district will cover 200 square miles.

Active UCAFAWA Members

Those active in the movement to form the district are: William Blanton, president of the Easton UCAFAWA Local; Mollie Robinson, subdistrict treasurer; K. A. Moore, president of the Greenville local, and H. C. Thompson, president of the Nelson Hall local.

YOUR HEALTH

WORKERS BACK HEALTH BILL

WASHINGTON.—The demands of hundreds of labor, farm and civic organizations for Federal action to meet the health needs of the people bore fruit with the introduction of a health bill into the U. S. Senate by Senator Robert F. Wagner.

The bill, based on five years of intensive research into the pressing health needs of the country, deserves the active support of every worker. And like every other piece of New Deal legislation, that support, to be effective, will have to be quickly translated into letters and resolutions to our Congressmen, telling them that we want this bill passed.

Introduced as an amendment to the Social Security Act as a health section of that important piece of New Deal legislation, Senator Wagner said that this bill would round out the Social Security Act and "conquer this last remaining frontier of social security in America."

More Health Centers

The grants would be available to the states for establishing, expanding and improving state programs for child and maternal health, general public health services, construction of health centers, general programs of medical care and insurance against loss of wages due to sickness.

The amendment calls for the expenditure in the first year of \$80,000,000 by the Federal government, given as grants in aid to the states. Each state would contribute an equal sum to that which it got from the Federal government. None of the Federal funds would be raised from payroll taxes but would be part of general expenditures.

The bill is based on the recommendations of the National Health Conference held in Washington last July. It attempts to avoid opposition of the American Medical Assn. and the states by leaving out any provisions of compulsory health insurance or active administration of the bill by the Federal government directly.

In answer to the Tories in Congress today who have already come out against

FARM WORKERS' RALLY DEFIES IMPERIAL VALLEY BOSSES

Agricultural workers wearing CIO buttons poured into the grandstand past Associated Farmer vigilantes at a Memorial Day meeting in El Centro, seat of the Imperial Valley's anti-labor terrorism.

The Valley received its real baptism of freedom on Memorial Day, when organized labor staged its first successful rally in this stronghold of land barons.

Fifteen hundred workers and small farmers attended the meeting. So did the Associated Farmers and vigilantes in the vain hope of scaring people away.

GOVERNOR BACKS MEETING

A strong protest from Governor Olson had forced the Associate Farmers to lift their ban on a Labor's Non-Partisan League meeting.

Lieutenant Governor Ellis E. Patterson and Regional Director Towne Nylander of the National Labor Relations Board were chief speakers at the meeting.

REASONS WHY OF HEALTH BILL

Here are some of the many reasons why the Wagner Health Bill deserves YOUR support:

1. Each year, seventy million sick persons lose more than one billion days from work.
2. Thirty-five per cent of those on relief had no doctor's care when they were seriously ill last year.
3. Fifty million Americans are in families that have less than \$1,000 a year income. Sickness and death rates increase as incomes go down.
4. At least 62 per cent of the workers do not have proper health protection on the job.
5. Two-thirds of the rural sections of America have no child health centers or clinics.

the bill as needless expenditure of money. Senator Wagner pointed out that illness and premature death are now costing the United States \$10,000,000,000 annually in lost wages, the loss of family wage earners and general poverty.

Urge Its Passage

It is in order to decrease this huge and often needless drain on life and resources that the bill has been introduced.

Reactionaries will fight it all the way just as they fight other New Deal measures which the majority of the people want and need. If this important measure is to take its place along with the Wagner Act and the Social Security Act, that we already have, unions, auxiliaries and all organizations to which you belong should write to Senator Wagner and to your own senators and representatives, telling them that you want them to vote for this bill.

"It is time that we American citizens quit listening to those unpatriotic, un-American forces that refuse to honestly face our social, political and economic problems," said the lieutenant governor of California.

"These phony fascists haven't the courage to face the truth. They resort to red-baiting every progressive Roosevelt Democrat who tries to correct our social, economic and political structure," continued Lieutenant Governor Patterson, in referring to the Associated Farmers and the vigilantes.

Asks F. D. R. Third Term

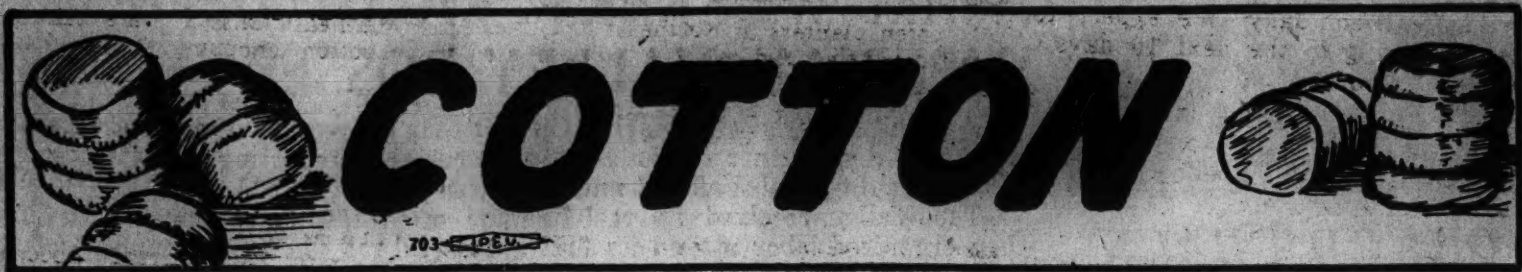
"They are the forces that are fighting Governor Olson and myself. They fight him because they know he is attempting to follow the will of the people and that he will give California the best government it has ever had.

"Let President Roosevelt know that labor—organized and unorganized—is behind him for a third term if he will take it."

Buy Harbauer Pickles, Mustard and Relish

The Cannery Council of District 5 in Toledo has been making great progress. Local 81 of UCAFAWA signed a 1939 contract with the Harbauer Co. In signing the contract a threatened wage cut was averted. Increases averaging 100 an hour were gained for watchmen, firemen and engineers.

The Toledo Cannery Council News also reported the signing of a 1939 agreement with the Woolson Spice Co. In this agreement Local 297 of UCAFAWA won an 8-hour day and a 5-day week.



Butler, Mitchell Removed from UCAPAWA and CIO Facts Concerning So-Called STFU-UCAPAWA Split

District Four, formerly known as the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, has been reorganized by three State organizations in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

So that members of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America together with the entire labor movement and the public at large may understand the reasons for this reorganization we are giving you a brief summary of the facts.

In September 1937, 200 delegates of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union voted unanimously to affiliate with UCAPAWA. This was in spite of opposition from Butler, Mitchell, Kester and Griffin who were then the leading officers.

UCAPAWA agreed that the STFU would have autonomy within its own organization, over all matters of program, policies and activities. This agreement was kept by the UCAPAWA. Mitchell and Butler were unable to give one bit of evidence that the agreement had been violated.

Constitution Violated

Trouble came because Mitchell and Butler persisted in violating the UCAPAWA Constitution. They did not pay per capita to the International and instructed STFU locals to return dues stamps sent them by UCAPAWA.

Finally John Brophy, National Director of the CIO met with UCAPAWA and the STFU officers in an attempt to settle the matter in a friendly way.

The CIO Director proposed three points that were immediately accepted by Pres. Henderson for UCAPAWA.

(1) Conformity of the STFU to the Constitution of UCAPAWA.

(2) Maintenance of the autonomy of District 4, STFU, within UCAPAWA Constitution.

(3) On this basis immediate lifting of suspension of Butler and Mitchell from UCAPAWA.

Butler and Mitchell refused these proposals. In answer to a request from Mitchell for a separate charter

Mr. Brophy made the following statement on March 9:

"The CIO plan for a successful settlement of differences between the Executive Council of the STFU and the UCAPAWA was drawn up at the request of the officers of the STFU. It was accepted by UCAPAWA, and after indications that it would be acceptable to officers of the STFU, was rejected by STFU President J. R. Butler.

"The CIO believes that this plan, if it had been accepted by officers of the STFU would have settled the present differences satisfactorily. The CIO believes that the interests of the members of the STFU would be best served by their remaining within UCAPAWA. For this reason the CIO cannot issue a separate charter of affiliation to the STFU."

Meanwhile UCAPAWA began its work of reorganizing the STFU, District Four membership, into State Councils.

State Conventions

Reorganization was accomplished by a series of three conventions held in March and April. They were called by leaders of the STFU. Delegates at these conventions voted to establish three councils to replace the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Each of the State Conventions repudiated the old STFU leadership Butler and Mitchell and adopted constitutions and programs.

The program for the cotton industry in the old South covers the following general points:

(1) The union shall, immediately, through its committees and locals,

take steps to secure the placement of more sharecroppers, tenant farmers and agricultural workers on WPA.

(2) The union shall start a campaign to get five-year written contracts for tenant farmers and to secure by law, or otherwise, written contracts for all sharecroppers.

(3) The union shall endeavor to secure adequate wages for all agricultural workers.

(4) The union will start work to launch a campaign for better housing among rural workers.

Missouri

On March 12, 52 delegates from 21 locals, representing 4,000 Missouri sharecroppers, held a convention in St. Louis. They voted to continue as part of the UCAPAWA and the CIO.

"This action constituted a definite repudiation of STFU officers in Memphis and Tennessee who have been suspended from UCAPAWA and the CIO," said Owen Whitfield, leader of the Sharecropper's demonstration in the state and former vice-president of the STFU.

The Convention voted unanimously to establish a Missouri State Organization with headquarters in St. Louis. Officers elected were W. Fisher, president, and Owen H. Whitfield, secretary-treasurer.

Brother Whitfield has continued his activities amongst the people in Southeastern Missouri who were forced off plantations by landlords last January. These people were camped on the roadside for several months. Brother Whitfield reports that he is closing a deal for 90 acres of land for his people.

"This will get them out of those

old dance halls, churches and shacks where they are living temporarily. Their landlords and their stooges terrorize them daily. We expect to begin moving in the next 10 days," says Whitfield.

"The deal is being financed by donations from the Committee for Rehabilitation of Sharecroppers and Mrs. Josephine Johnson Smoot and others," continued Whitfield.

Oklahoma

Delegates from 18 locals, formerly affiliated to the STFU, attended the convention in Durant, Oklahoma, on March 19. They voted to repudiate STFU leadership and affiliate directly with UCAPAWA and the CIO.

"We are not going to desert UCAPAWA and be led into a wilderness because Butler and Mitchell want to be a couple of big frogs in a small puddle," said Odis Sweeden, secretary-treasurer-elect of the new State Organization set up by the Oklahoma Convention.

Arkansas

On April 2nd a dramatic and stirring Convention was held in Memphis, Tenn. Eighty-seven delegates, representing the majority of former STFU members voted to retain affiliation with the CIO and UCAPAWA.

A State Constitution and by-laws were adopted. A program was approved and officers elected as follows:

T. B. McKinney, president; Leon Turner, vice-president, and E. C. Pettigrew, secretary-treasurer. A State Executive Board of 16 people was elected to lead the new Arkansas Council.

The Arkansas Convention completed the reorganization of former STFU locals in the South. All locals in Missouri, scene of the heroic roadside encampment of 1500 sharecroppers last January, repudiated Butler and Mitchell and remained with the CIO and UCAPAWA. All of the Oklahoma locals followed suit. The majority of locals in Arkansas voted in the same manner.

These states each have a State Organization, State Officers and enjoy complete autonomy.

At least three-fourths of the former STFU locals have been re-chartered and are working under the CIO banner.

COTTON PLANTERS MOVE TO GET LOW WAGE CHOPPERS OFF RELIEF

Cotton planters in Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri are taking steps to have all Federal relief stopped now that cotton chopping season has come around.

They say there is a shortage of farm labor. They mean there is a shortage of people who are willing or who can work for a wage of 50 cents or at most \$1 per day.

According to the Post-Dispatch June 10, the Mississippi County Farm Bureau asked the Federal Relief Agency at Memphis, Tenn., to release recipients of relief for the cotton chopping season so that they may come into this district to chop cotton.

"Hundreds of men and women living

in Memphis have been brought into this area for cotton chopping in past seasons," continues the article.

With the rural South already flooded with unemployed workers, landowners propose to bring more workers from the city so that they can be sure of getting "Good Cheap Labor."

Cotton Compress and Cottonseed Workers Hold Conference

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Five locals, represented by 24 official and four fraternal delegates, in California and Arizona, established a Joint Council of Compress and Oil Workers at their two-state conference here on June 18. Four UCAPAWA locals in Bakersfield, Calif.; Fresno, Calif.; Stockton, Calif., and Phoenix, Arizona, and one local in the ILWU in San Pedro, Calif., were represented.

Plans for completing negotiations for a contract in the plant of the Port Stockton Compress Company at Stockton, Calif., were decided on. This company has been stalling during recent weeks on signing up with the union. Successful negotiations in this plant will result in all cotton compress plants in California being under contract. Negotiations for renewals of existing contracts have begun in some of the other plants.

In addition to working out plans for improving and servicing the unions already organized, three union brothers were nominated by the conference for the post of full-time organizer for the council. Brothers H. Alexander from Los Angeles, J. Finney from San Pedro,

K. Gatewood, from the Cotton Compress local in Bakersfield, were nominated. One of these brothers will be elected as council organizer by a referendum vote of the membership in all locals.

After a lengthy discussion, a resolution was unanimously adopted by the delegates urging that all cotton compress and cotton seed oil mills should be united under one International union; it was unanimously agreed that they should be affiliated to UCAPAWA. However, delegates made it clear that transfers of any locals organized by other unions, should only be made after careful education and with the consent of the membership.

STOCKTON COTTON COMPRESS FIGHTS SIGNING UNION CONTRACT

By B. E. Johnson, Jr.

President Local 311, UCAPAWA
Stockton, Calif.

The Port Stockton Compress, controlled by the Producers Cotton Oil Co., may force the workers in Local 311, UCAPAWA to go on strike here, if the management persists in its refusal to nego-

tiate with us. The management is trying hard to build a company union while we are fighting and will continue to fight for the signing of our contract.

Our contract is 100% closed shop and that is what the boss objects to. We may have to call a strike at any time.

Texas-New Mexico Cotton Seed Oil Workers Want Organization

LOVING, New Mexico—Following a voluntary survey of the cotton seed oil mills in six West Texas towns, union members in the cotton seed oil mill at Loving, New Mexico, have made plans to start organizational work in this area. A request that a full-time organizer be sent into this area this fall to complete the work and secure contracts in these mills has been made to the International office.

The Otis Gin and Warehouse Company here has been under contract for two years with wages and working conditions greatly improved over the unorganized mills. The organized workers have an eight-hour day, 48-hour week, while many of the unorganized mills have a 12-hour day. Wages are sometimes a dollar or more a day less in the unorganized plants.

THE GENERAL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By DONALD HENDERSON

General President of UCAPAWA

Nothing is of more importance to most of the membership of our union today than the triple threat against the Wages and Hour Law, the Social Security Law, and the National Labor Relations Law.

Not satisfied with exempting agricultural laborers from the provisions of these Acts, powerful processing lobbyists led by the notorious Associated Farmers are stampeding the House and the Senate into extending exemption to most of the agricultural and food processing workers throughout the country.

The Unholy Alliance

What has taken place is an unholy and vicious alliance between the Associated Farmers, the national leadership of the National Grange, the national leadership of the Farm Bureau Federation, and the monopolistic, reactionary processing industries, backed behind the scenes by the National Assn. of Manufacturers. The rank and file membership in the Grange and the Farm Bureau, the real dirt farmers are being sold down the river by the Associated Farmers to serve the interests of the giant processing industries.

These processing industries, in dairy, in canning, in packing, in grain processing, are the worst enemies of the farmers who have cheated them and squeezed them to death at every turn. The farmers never get decent prices for their products primarily because these same processing industries with their monopolistic control over farmers' markets skimmed off the profits, which should go to the farmer, into their own fat bellies.

Our membership and all our leaders have got to move heaven and earth to inform local and state farmers groups what is taking place and help get them to stop the Associated Farmers and the processing industries from using them as catspaws.

Greater efforts must be made to get your own Congressmen and especially your Senators to halt this nullification of the Wage-Hour Act, the Social Security Act and the Wagner Act. President Roosevelt has threatened to veto the Wage-Hour Amendment if the plans of these baby-starvers go through. All of these groups which they are planning to exempt are precisely the ones who need these protections most and for whom these laws were intended.

Wages-Hours Exemptions

The Administrator of the Wages and Hours Law, Elmer Andrews, has publicly called the proposed amendment a "Bill to Lower Wages and Working Conditions." This bill, H. R. 5485, with proposed additions made by the House Labor Committee would exempt the following groups from the protections and benefits of the Law:

- 1) All workers in the packing and handling of fresh fruits and vegetables (both wages and hours).
- 2) All employees engaged in handling and processing tobacco (both wages and hours).
- 3) 150,000 workers in lumber (hours exemption).
- 4) All workers in canning and food processing industries (hours exemption).
- 5) All workers in slaughter houses, grain elevators, etc. (hours exemption).

The Wages and Hours Administrator, in a public release states that as soon as this bill is brought to the floor of the House for debate, the following amendments will be made and he asserts that the reactionary elements in the House can pass them: Exempting all canners, all packers, all truckers, all warehousemen, all sawmill operators, all clerical workers, and all miners.

Social Security Exemptions

The situation is still worse in the drive of these same reactionary processing monopolies led by the Associated Farmers. Here the Amendment, H. R. 6497, has already been passed by the House and will come up in the Senate in a few days.

This bill exempts agricultural laborers from both old age pensions and unemployment insurance and then defines agricultural laborers to include the following groups:

- 1) All services performed in handling, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing, any agricultural or horticultural commodity when such service is done as an incident to farming. The processors and growers have always maintained that most marketing and preparing for market operations are

incidental to farming so we can expect this exemption to cover hundreds of thousands of workers.

2) In the case of fruits and vegetables, all services performed as an incident to the preparation of such fruits and vegetables for market, but not commercial canning or freezing.

3) All people working on a farm regardless of who hires them or who they work for; this means that thousands of workers employed by processing companies who harvest or do other work on a farm will be exempt.

4) All persons employed by a farmer or tenant regardless of whether the work done is clearly agricultural or not.

These exemptions apply to both the old age pensions and the unemployment insurance provisions of the Act, and they cover stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, fur, truck farms and plantations, ranches, nurseries, ranges and greenhouses.

These amendments, particularly the Logan Amendment, would strip protection of the Wagner Act from practically all food processing workers of all kinds and would exempt even more workers than the vicious amendments proposed for the Wages and Hours Law.

CIO Board Acts

Recognizing the dangers in this unholy alliance, the CIO Executive Board voted authority to the officers of the CIO to investigate the situation in order to establish machinery which will develop co-operative work with farmers. This present drive against these acts by these groups is only a beginning unless the farmers are lined up with the labor movement instead of with the processing industries and other reactionary groups. The great working millions in the city and the country have too much in common with the millions of working farmers to allow both groups to be played against each other.

However, it is imperative that all our locals mobilize all other labor unions, councils, and fraternal bodies into an immediate campaign against these amendments. ~~Make~~ ^{Make} that you act at once before it is too late.

NEWS DISTRICTS

FROM THE

DISTRICT 2

Mexican Farm Workers Organize 7 Calif. Locals

By C. F. WILLS

Press Representative, Local 250

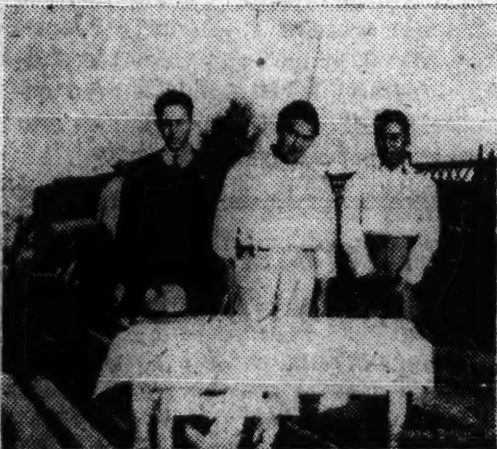
The nation as a whole has been under the impression that the Mexican people have been responsible for lowering the standard of wages in the Western States.

In order to clarify the minds of the workers throughout the U. S. let's take a look at Local 250 of UCAPAWA. It's a Spanish speaking local. Local 250 is located in a colony near Shafter, Calif. In the local there were 108 dues paying members, a year ago.

Mexican members of Local 250 saw the necessity of organizing the English-speaking people. They saw the necessity of bringing closer unity between the various nationalities. An organizing campaign was started in Kern and Tulare counties.

Results

The campaign waged by these Mexican workers had excellent results. The mem-



LEFT TO RIGHT ARE: Sec.-Treas. M. M. Rodriguez, Pres. Joseph Saez and Rec. Sec. Victor Almaraz

bership of Local 250 went up to 312. Of this membership 204 were English speaking workers.

Not only did the Mexican workers increase and broaden the membership of their own locals but they also organized several new locals.

These were: Local 281, Wasco, Kern County with approximately 60 members. Local 302, in Earlimart, Tulare County,

with 65 members, Local 299 in Lamont, Kern County, 40 members.

They assisted in the rebuilding of Local 225 in Lindsay, Tulare County where there are now 50 members. They also assisted in organizing Local 30 in Visalia Tulare County. Local 272 in Bakersfield, a compress local with a signed contract, was largely organized by the small group in Local 250. All locals mentioned excepting 250 are English speaking. A Co-ordinating Council of these locals has been set up.

Our slogan is to "Organize the Unorganized," and our goal is "Ten thousand strong in 1939."

DISTRICT 5

Patronize Union-Made Tomato Juice

By EDWARD MITCHELL, Local 283

College Inn Food Products Co. was started in Chicago 17 years ago. Until last year conditions in the plant were very bad. Employees who had worked there from 10 to 12 years did not get vacations and had no seniority rights.

People who were younger and faster were given the best jobs, though they too suffered from speed-up and lack of rest periods. The older workers in the company's employ were given as little as eight hours a week of work during slack periods.

UCAPAWA Changes Conditions

These evils led to an organizational drive in the plant last year. In three weeks 99 per cent of the workers had signed up with UCAPAWA and the CIO.

On September 22, 1938, employers were forced to sign a contract with UCAPAWA. The contract guaranteed 32 hours work a week, a rest period of ten minutes twice a day, vacations with pay, seniority rights and a grievance committee. A pay cut planned by the company for October, 1938, was stymied by a clause in the contract providing for no pay cuts.

Local 169—Progress in Argo Corn Products Refinery

The local is growing in the Argo Chicago plant, largest corn products refinery in the world.

The workers want peace in industry and they know that only a strong union will force the corporation to deal with them.

George Monroe Moffett is president of the company. He believes in the Nazi methods of handling labor. The corporation has a large plant in Germany.

DISTRICT 7

Food Locals Win Contracts

The District reports that all locals in food plants have now won closed shop contracts. District 7 is one of the best organized districts of the UCAPAWA.

ASSESSMENT

A serious organizing situation in the District was met at the last Board meeting by suggesting to every local that they vote an assessment of 25c per member per month for a four-month period.

This assessment was recommended because the District office had been getting repeated pleas from all areas for organizing help. Campbell's Soup in Camden wanted more money. Belleville wanted the Boundbrook cherry plant organized. Western New York wanted organizers for basket and cannery plants. New York Local 209 wanted some date plants organized.

The District treasury had only money sent in for per capita taxes. That was not enough to meet organizational demands. Board members felt that the best way to meet this problem was an assessment by each local.

To date the majority of locals have voted the assessment and it is expected that other locals will soon follow suit.

BASKET WORKERS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

Hattie Marcy, president of Basket Workers Local in Webster, New York reports everything fine in the plant. The Webster Basket Co. employs 125 workers under a closed shop agreement.

Last winter the company tried to break the union and failed. Sister Marcy not only leads a closed shop union but also does all the hiring for the company.

At a membership meeting on May 5, the local voted to tax themselves a dollar per member for a period of four

Continued on Page Sixteen

Did You Get Yours Yet?

THE NEW AND BEAUTIFUL

UCAPAWA DRESS BUTTON

Is Selling Fast!

DON'T DELAY! ORDER YOUR BUTTONS AT ONCE!

PRICE 25c each

"LET'S TELL THE WORLD"

District 7

Continued from Page Fifteen

months. This will set up an organizing fund to start work on other locals.

CHERRY PACKERS RENEW CONTRACT

United Food Packers Local 46 in Belleville, New Jersey, has renewed its agreement with the Belleville Fruit Products Corp., largest packers of maraschino cherries in the U. S.

The local reports that the cherry pitting department has been closed most of the winter because the company is buying pitted cherries from the West Coast.

Local 46, UCAFAWA, requests that the people on the West Coast get busy and organize cherry picking plants that are working under sweatshop conditions and cutting the throats of union members in the East. How about it District 1 and 2?

Membership Books

Continued from Page Five

And so on down the line. Thank the Lord that this isn't true of the majority of locals.

What are we going to do about those locals which have been paying on half their membership? Well, frankly, we are going to demand that every local that has been holding back on its dues payments shall immediately assume the debt which they have incurred. And we are going to expect the locals to pay on their actual dues paying membership from now on.

Will Send Them Back

In connection with the matter of new membership books, I have been informed that some members wish to retain their old membership books for various reasons. We will gladly send back all old membership books which we receive. But these old membership books must first be sent to the international office, where they will be examined and cancelled.

During the early days of this country, our forefathers found it necessary to issue more money than the treasury could afford. Pretty soon the value of money went down so low that you had to spend a bushel of bills to buy a loaf of bread. The bills were called "continentals" in those days, and naturally the common expression was heard, and is still used, "not worth a continental."

Well, what has this to do with the UCAFAWA and the new membership books? Just this: If we go on forever circulating our membership books as though they were "continentals," or passes to some cheap showhouse, we are going to cheapen the value of these membership books in the eyes of the very people to whom we give them. Pretty soon, if this continues, "not worth a UCAFAWA membership book" will mean just about the same as "not worth a continental" did in the old days. That's what we want to avoid—and we will.

DISTRICT 8

15 Texas Locals Meet in Longview

Fifteen local unions composed of small farmers and tenants meeting in sub-district convention at Longview, Texas, this week, unanimously declared their allegiance to the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO.

These farmers, mostly Negroes, had been organized formerly by Professor J. E. Clayton into the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. Clayton, former member of the Executive Committee of the STFU welcomed this group's affiliation to this International because of its affiliation to the powerful CIO national organization. The east Texas farmers became dissatisfied with the do nothing policy of the STFU.

This declaration of allegiance to UCAFAWA by the east Texas farmers came as a result of overtures from the Memphis office of the STFU which tried to get them to follow this group out of the CIO.

This resolution was introduced by Mrs. Mollie Robinson, subdistrict secretary. In support of the resolution Mrs. Robinson declared: "Members of our locals have already seen things done through our organized strength which would have been impossible without the backing of a strong union. Through our organized strength we have been able to open doors which were closed—to find food for the hungry, to assist in obtaining old age assistance and WPA jobs for our deserving members, and even to open prison doors for those who were unjustly imprisoned."

Great Step Forward

The sub-district convention was attended by official delegates from every local in east Texas. It marked a great step forward in the establishment of a strong and efficient organization among people who have never known organization before.

A resolution was passed in support of better and more democratically controlled schools. A letter was sent to Professor S. J. Sutton of San Antonio congratulating him upon his appointment as a member of the grand jury. Professor Sutton is the first Negro to be named as a member of the grand jury in San Antonio in 10 years and such a thing is unheard of in east Texas.

Professor Clayton was recommended by the convention to receive the award to be given by the Texas Negro People's Congress for outstanding service to his race. The key-note address of the Convention was given by Harry Koger, District Representative. Koger pointed to many accomplishments of the organization since activities had been started in March. These he told the delegates are only the first steps toward the liberation of the small farmers, both black and white, of east Texas.

DISTRICT 3

District Three Changes Leaders

J. Austin Beasley has resigned as President of District 3 and from all other posts and activity in the labor movement. Clyde Johnson, International Representative of UCAFAWA has taken over the work of Brother Beasley. Fidel Herrera is now acting president of District 30.

Members of District 3 locals are busy getting their sugar beet contracts.

NEBRASKA BEET LOCAL GREET'S UCAFAWA NEWS

Our greetings and a successful organizing campaign to the newly born UCAFAWA News.

You can depend on full co-operation from our local.

Fraternally,

Grand Island Beet Workers Union, Nebraska, Local 43, UCAFAWA and the Executive Board of Local 43.

J. Jesus Vela, president; Julia A. Ramirez, vice president; J. A. Ramirez, financial secretary; Manuel Puente, treasurer; J. Felipe Pedroza, correspondent secretary; M. P. Ramirez, head organizer; J. T. Martinez, organizer and Machine Lopez, organizer.



Workers Alliance Hold Congress

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Workers Alliance held a smashing "Right to Work" Congress here recently. Among the speakers were Tom Mooney, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congressman Vito Marcantonio.

Main point stressed by the Congress was the "Right to Work" and the necessity for providing at least three million W. P. A. jobs during the coming fiscal year.

Delegates were urged to get their organizations to support the Work Recovery Act, Bill number H. R. 6476 introduced with CIO backing into the House on May 23, 1939 by Congressman Casey.

Locals of UCAFAWA are urged to write their congressman to support this bill.